NO. 26.

PUBLISHED EVEST PRIDAT EVENISO BY C. M FUNSTON, Publisher. KINGMAN, MOHAVE COUNTY, ARIZONA.

Entered at the postoffice in Kingma s second-class matter.

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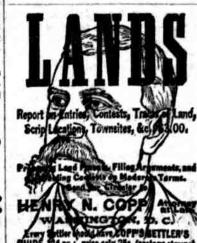
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AN OLD RUSSIAN FORT.

PECULIARITIES OF A MUSCOVITE FOR-TIFICATION IN ALASKA

Old Defenses of Fort Wrangeti-A Military Post in Name Only-Russians and Indians-Curios for Salu-Blanket

Names of places in this territory which have military designations may inspire a sense of security to outsiders unacquainted with the country. For instance, upon hearwith the country. For instance, upon sear-ing of Fort Wrangell one would naturally conclude that such a post would furnish ample security for a reasonalds scope of country. Yet the nearest troops are at Fort Townsend, marry 1,000 miles distant by water, if we except a small company of ma-rines at Sitia. Fort Wrangell is a military post only in name. It is about 150 miles southeast of Sitka by the waters of the inlets, but by the bi-monthly steamers in a north east course its distance is more than 500

It is one of the old Russian settlements, and

was one of their most prosperous trading posts. The main part of the village is on a moderate slope, with a lefty chain of mountains close behind. There are not more than 500 inhabitable acres there, and upon them was crowded all there ever was of Wrangell in its most prosperous days. On the north side of the village is a higher knoll, and on this stand the old defences of Fort Wrangell. A high wooden pulisade or stockade surrounded the area set apart for military purposes; the stockade is gone, but the buildings all remain in a fair state of preservation. The fort proper where were the officers' quarters and the barracks for the men stands on the north side of the quadrangle, and is a solid log building boarded over and made impenstrable to bullets. The government house stands on the west side of the square, and is

built of the same material. This building on the senoide is adapted for defensive purposes. On the east side of the quadrangle is a large log and boarded build-ing which was used in the old Russian days as a storchouse, and its outer front was asterpted to protective and defensive purposes.

A PECULIAR STRUCTURE. At the southeast corner of this square stands the most peculiar structure of all, and one more suggestive of the necessities of defense than all the rest. It is the block house or bastion, and upon its safety and security depended the safety and security of the entire post. It is solidly built of logs, and is about twelve feet square at the ground. It rises in these dimensions to about twelve feet, the height of the palisades, where is a second story of wider dimensions, extending entirely over the margin of the first. Its walls are not parallel with those of the first, but it s placed diagonally across the first, so that its corpers do not conform to the corners of the first. In thus being wider than the first story, and extending over it on all sides, rifle-men could defend it, not only by aiming outward, but downward on the outside of the alisades. Such defenses were common in ennsylvania, New York and Ohio 100 years ago, but they are now only bistoric memoes, while the Russian block house at Fort Wrungell still exists as a memento of their

ecupation, and is rapidly going to ruin.

There are only a few Russians left at Vrangeil, not more than a dozen of pure bloods. There are quite a number of the mixed race, Indian and Russian, still there, but the bulk of the denizers of the place are satives. There relies of Russian peasantry and the half breeds are as a rule more worth sa than the native or Indian. The houses Philadelphia, Pa. of the old Russian settlement are rapidly disappearing from lack of care and through the wet climate, which is destructive of tim-About 500 Indians have their winter nome there. During the canning season they go out a long distance up the inlets and take lmon and other fish for the canneries. When that season is over they return to Wrangell, spending the winter months in bunting the mule deer, sometimes attacking the great brown bear of the adjoining moun tains, but giving over most of their leisure time to gambling. There are twelve or fifeen Americans in the village, some in public ployment, some in missio

the Indians, some in saloon keeping, and the

est in traders' stores. CURIOS FOR SALE. A remnant of the old Russian town stands selow the fort along what was once perhaps a street. A relie of a rough wooden sidewalk and some boarded up old fashioned, narrow windows suggest traffic. On this broken and filapidated walk a score or two of old squaws and decrepit men squat on their haunches and expose for sale the curios with which they hope to tempt the tourist. These natives are adepts at construction, and offer for sale icely formed bracelets and rings manufac tured from coin silver obtained at the capneries for fish. They also have wooden spoons and bowls for sale, made from the autiful yellow cedar of this coast, ornamented with carved griffins of curious design. in trading with the Athabascan Indians of the interior, in the British dominions, they procure a white, coarse wool from a sort of mountain goat or sheep, and this is woven into blankets variously colored, mostly gray and white, and figured over with griffins and script figures of a like nature. Alaska for a thousand miles and more is only a strip of coast about 30 miles wide on the mainland The Indians of the interior are never permitted by the coast natives to come to tide water. The coast natives have time out of ind constituted themselves the raiddle

and have done all the trading with the In-

After leaving Fort Wrangell one sees no white settlements again for many hours steaming up the inlet. At Tongas Narrows, where a little glacter river comes with a rour out of the deep notch in the surrounding mountains, one comes upon the few isolated buildings of the Loring fish cannery. Four or five whites are here among a host of na tives, the latter furnishing the fish to the works. Nothing can be more lonely than the situation of that meager settlement, many miles by land and water from any white ighbors or succor of any kind. From here a long steaming brings us to Berry's cannery It has as few white people and is in as lonely a notch in the mountains by the seaside as Loring's. Indians in tents and buts near the works and a few whites are all we see. It akes all night, fast steaming, before we reach signs of civilization again at Juneau City and Douglass Island, the sent of the gold mining industries of Alaska. I these points the steamer picks its way up the narrow cannels, fearful of hidden ocks and rapid tide currents, for more than twelve hours, and then reaches the salmon cannery of Pyramid harbor, in what is called the Chilcat country, in Chilcat inlet. Here are half a dozen whites managing the fishery and canning establishment, and not one white woman to be seen there. This is the highest point in the inlets where steamers so for commercial purposes.—Sitka Cor. New

Who finds all the umbrellas that every-body loses? Every man we meet loses the brelles he buys, but we have never got

CARGOES OF CRIMINALS.

w Russian Convicts Are Transport Siberia—Hot Weter Punishment

River Russian Convicts Are Transported to Siberia—Hot Weter Punishment.

The Nighmi-Novgorod is an iron steamship of about 5,500 tons burden, and is specially fitted as a convict transport. With a full complement of convicts the vessel carries 622. The officers andersw number eighty, exclusive of a marine convoy except of sixty-two men specially chosen for this duty. The iron barred compartments or cages in which the convicts are confined run parallel, fore and aft, on either side the upper and lower tween decks. The iron bars, an inch thick, of these cages and the woodwork in which they are set, is heavily and solidly constructed. The cages are of unequal capacity and length, but have a uniform height of seven and a half feet. The more desperate characters are manacled and chained to iron staples in their berths, from which they are released when necessary. The greater number, although retaining the waist and ankle shackles, of light construction, have the freedom of traversing the length of the compartment, which may vary from twenty five to forty feet. Between the outer bars and the two plain plank shelves or bunks running from end to end of the compartments which affort sleering room for the occurants. there from end to end of the compartments which afford sleeping room for the occupants, there is a free room. is a free space of about four and a half or

five feet.

Except during the distribution of rations no culinary vessels are left with the convicts. Even the drinking water is obtained only through an india rubber mouth piece fixed in an inclosed water tank and through which the drinker sucks his draught. Immediately outside the cages and attached to the under part of the deck over head is a steam pipe connected with the ship's bollers. Into these pipes are fitted sorew nowless at intervals of connected with the ship's boilers. Into these pipes are fitted screw nomies at intervals of twelve feet. The object of the steam pipe is to suppress any dangerous outbreak among the inmates of the cage, By means of a short hose, specially made to resist the steam heat, quickly attached to one of the steam pipe nozzles, the turbulent convicts are readily quieted or parboiled. Strong water jets have been found next to useless in allaying these occasional tumuits.

After the ship has passed the canal, but not before, batches of convicts are in turn brought upon deck for a shower bath and short exercise. A strongly constructed fron railing, eight feet high, crosses the vessel amidships, in order that the convict, during his bath and while unmanacled, cannot by any studden rush evade the guard and reach the quarter dek. Some of the more desperate convicts, who stubbornly resist all disciplin-ary control, are confined to the cages during the whole voyage. Both the upper and lower tween decks are open and airy, the system of ventilation being excellent, and the cages themselves are kept scrupulously clean. The cages are repainted every voyage. Every convict, in addition to having his hair cropped short, has the left half of the bead om front to back closely shaved.-London

The Parisienne and Her Cigarette. Smoking, as is well known, is a habit which s not confined to men in France and other inental countries. Many Parisiennes nov indulge in cigarettes even in their boudoirs, and a recent writer, who is herealf a smoke has drawn up a set of rules for the benefit o ionable female votaries of the "wood, Some of these regulations are rather pecu-liar. Never, says the guide, philosopher, and liar. Never, says the guide, philosopher; and friend of fashionable fumeuses, never smoke in a restaurant or out of doors, even when in company with your husbands. Never light a cigarette after a 5 o'clock tea, even if your most intimate friends only are present. Smoke after your meals at home, either in a room ad hoc or in your boudoir. Do not hold the cigarette between your teeth or at the sides of your mouths. Such low tricks are unworthy even of well bred men, and you must be mindful to carry the cigarette gracefully to your lips, and to blow gentle wreaths. fully to your lips, and to blow gentle wreaths of etherealized essence around you from your mouths, or if you like, down from your noses. Be extremely careful not to allow any ashes to fall on your dresses or your carpets, and be sure that your cigarette holders and

their cases, your match boxes, your ash trays, and your general appliances for the enjoyment of tobacco, be as delicate and artistic as all objects used by ladies should be.

By attention to these rules, concludes their compiler, a fumeuse may frequently make becalf additionally interesting and incompiler. herself additionally interesting and piquant. Blowing clouds of smoke from the nose may even develop into a most fascinating operation, provided the smoker have a pretty pro-boscis, and that the profile of it only be seen by the admiring oavelier or suitor as the

bine gray vapor descends delicately from the nostrals.—The Argonaut. La. yer Than All New England.

The words "Great West" have a significance not fully realized by many people. As a whole the west is thought of as an immense spread of country, but to get any idea of the size, to have any comprehension of what the great west really means in miles or acres, one must take a single state and com-pare its area with others. A short time ago this topic of conversation was brought up and one gentleman who evidently was posted made a statement that California had a larger number of square miles than all the regular eastern states put to-gether. He was loudly laughed at by his companions, who were so incredu-lous that a bet of an elegant supper was made, the whole party betting against the ope man. It did not take him long to win the bet; he showed that Maine has 35,000 square miles; New Hampshire, 9,260; Vermont, 10, 212; Massachusetts, 7,800; Rhode Island 1,906; Connecticut, 4,750; New York, 47,000; New Jersey, 8,330; Delaware, 2,130, and Pennsylvania 46,000. This makes a total of

17,193 miles still in favor of the one western state. Where such large single states are to be found there is no wonder the whole body in conjunction should be denominated as the "Great West." Origin of a Popular Air.

only 171,788 square miles, whereas the area of California is 188,981 square miles, leaving

I have received the following: "What is the origin of the song Johnny, Get Your Gun?" The song was written in the winter in a city. The reason was that in the cold weather there were always certain men who, in boarding a street car, wouldn't come in ey wouldn't stand on the platform. But they would shove back the door and stand in the space, thus not only discommeding passen-gers, but allowing the cold wind to sweep into the car, creating neuralgia, toothach pneumonia, and other diseases of interest to the undertaker. The company tried in vain to persuade these gentlemen to quit this Finally the president said to one of his con

ductors, whose name is Johnny: "Johney, get your gun." The order is going to be enforced this winter, and the song will be more popular

than ever. - Chicago Mail.

THE REGULAR ARMY.

DETAILS OF A PLAN FOR TRANS-FORMING IT INTO A SCHOOL

Cost of Our Present Army-Cha the Enlisted Men-Reasons for Impor-tant Changes-Novel and Noteworth;

An extraordinary transformation of the regular army is proposed by Gen. August V. Kautz, colonel of the Eighth infantry, in the Century Magazine. "The ideal army that we have in view." he says, "is an educational institution, the fundamental principle being to recruit its material from the youth of the land, who will be able to learn the duties of land, who will be able to learn the duties of the service and to impart them to others;" and in order to give the whole country a share in this school, he would have the re-cruits selected according to locality, a fixed musher from each Congress district, to which, on completing their education, they would return. In short, he would substitute a "method of making officers for the one of maintaining enlisted men;" and he declares that this would be cheaper, besides keeping the country better prepared for a great war.

COST OF EXEPING. COST OF EXEPINO.

The cost of keeping up our present army, according to Gen. Kauts, h. s always exceeded \$30,000,000 a year, and has often amounted to \$40,000,000, so that he considere the annual cost per man of maintaining our military establishment to be about \$1,200. Hence "it costs more to [maintain a private than it does to make an officer at West Point."

"The men enlisted for this force are mostly."

than it does to make an officer at West Point."

"The men enlisted for this force are mostly recruited in the large cities, and consist of a class who in the main have selected to enlist from other than patriotic motives or love of the military profession. A large proportion are foreigners who are not sufficiently acquainted with the country to find other employment. Many have found out their inenpacity to make headway in civil life, the causes being as different as the characters and circumstances of the individuals. Too many belong to that large and unfortunate class known under the generic name of 'tramps,' who are wanderers by nature, and who become the deserters from the army. Many are illiterate, few are educated and capable, and the great majority lack the necessary talents and capacity to take care of themselves and to advance in life. The smart and apparently capable man, when found in the ranks, is generally suspected of some moral taint or intemperate habit not tolerated among his friends, and the number who attain distinction in the army, or after leaving it, are few indeed. There is no opportunity afforded the selicated man to be leaving it, are few indeed. There is no op-portunity afforded the enlisted man to be-come qualified to command in case of war, and the number who rise to a commission is remarkably small."

A BUMDRUK CONDITION.

Perhaps those who dissent from Gen.
Kantz's plan would dispute not only the figures of cost attributed to maintaining the enlisted man, but his view of the real average character of the present recruits. Gen. Kantz proceeds to say that the duties of the troops mostly consist of the simplest routine of garrison life, and that since even the outbreaks of the Indians are becoming less fre-quent, they have little opportunity to learn field service. This humdrum condition is not quite so marked in the cavalry, because the rooper has at least his borse to take cure of; but in general the soldiers are forever practicing siementary duties and drills, "doing them as well, if not better, after the first few

Another reason for his proposed change Gen. Kauts finds in the modern art of war, which destroys the value of the old drill tactics, making them even perilous.

Kauts proposes to make "every military post a military school," West Point officers serv-ing as instructors. As to the exact duties of such a school the article is somewhat more such a school the article is somewhat more vague:

"While holding that the army should be an educational institution, it is not intended to limit it to book knowledge. The instruction should also be technical to a certain extent. There will be many who will not take to books who can be of great service as carpenters, wheelwrights, blacksmiths, masons, painters, etc. These are all trades which can be taught, for they are all carried on at every post. All these pursuits are essential in war; in fact, there is no pursuit in civil life that may not be of service in war."

A RUSH OF RECEUTES. The present strength of the army could be obtained by taking fifteen recruits annually from each congress district, and the prevaling rule should be a single enlistment of five years, so that the greatest number possible may get a military training. The result would be such a rush of recruits that only the best could be received:

"The opportunity of getting an education while one is being clothed and fed, and receiving from 50 cents to \$1 per day, would be availed of gladly by any young man who had not been favored by fortune. It would be the contract of the contr be his chance to see something of the great world. After five years he could return to his home and relatives with a diploma and a discharge that would give him a claim to a commission as an officer in the event of a war, and he could have from one to two thousand dollars in his pocket; for he could

save all his pay."

All this is novel and particu All this is novel and particularly note-worthy as coming from an officer like Gen. Kautz, who has seen long and varied service. A German by birth, and a private in the Ohio infantry during the Mexican war, he was also a graduate of the Military Academy and a distinguished soldier during the civil war, and now has been forty years in the service.—New York Sun.

The Newly Married in China In one respect at least China sets an example which all the world would do well to follow. In this empire every one marries and no one "boards." Hence, generally speaking, there are as many wedded couples as there are men and women above the

ringable age, and as many centers of home life as there are couples married.

The one modification to this rule exists in the fact that a newly married pair finds its ne in the family of the husban until the bride is herself a mother. With the marriage ceremony, the bride loses absolute-ly and finally all connection with berlown bome, and becomes an integral part of the family of her husband. In it she is only a servant, performing the most menial duties, and condemned to a life of hardship and drudgery until she is a mother. Then, at last, she is entitled to a certain amount of respect and recognition, as something higher than a beast of burden.—Chester Holcombe

St. Augustine's Pet Porpoise

in Youth's Companion.

Evening Up.

At the Circus—"One ticket for me and two children's tickets for my two little sons."
"Excuse me, but your older son is certainly older than 12."
"Oh, yes, but the little one is as much younger than 12 as the big one is older. So it's all the same."—Pliegends Biaetter.

St. Augustine's Pet Porpoise.

St. Augustine's Pet Porpoise.

St. Augustine's Pet Porpoise.

There is an old porpoise that has been in the harbor of St. Augustine, Fis., years and years. The porpoise is particularly tame and frolicsome. He is called Old Ghoul, and is known by having one fin gone. He often plays around the fishermen's boats and his presence always augurs a good catch.—Chicago Herald.